

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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P R 220757Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5098

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0500

CINCPAC FOR POLAD - PLS PASS AMB SNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: KIM YONG-SAM INDICTED

REF: (A) SEOUL 10014 (1975) (B) SEOUL 0424

1. NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM WAS INDICTED WITHOUT CONFINEMENT JANUARY 21 BY SEOUL DISTRICT PROSECUTOR FOR VIOLATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE AT HIS AUGUST 23 PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE CALLED FOR REPEAL OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION. EARLIER SAME DAY PROSECUTION ANNOUNCED THAT KIM'S SECRETARY KIM TOK-YONG WAS INDICTED JANUARY 14 ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING EMERGENCY MEASURE 9; KIM TOK-YOUNG HAS BEEN IN CUSTODY SINCE OCTOBER 28. IN RESPONSE TO INDICTMENT, NDP LEADERS JANUARY 22 DEMANDED MEETING OF ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION/JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH "SUPPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE OPPOSITION". NDP SPOKESMAN IS REPORTED AS SAYING PARTY LEADERS HAVE CHARGED GOVERNMENT WITH POLITICAL REPRISALS.

2. INDICTMENT CAME AS SURPRISE TO MOST LOCAL POLITICAL OBSERVERS WHO DID NOT EXPECT ROKG TO INDICT KIM, OR HIS SECRETARY, AFTER NDP LEADER MADE TACIT ADMISSION OF ROKG SUPREMACY BY REPORTING
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VOLUNTARILY TO PROSECUTOR FOR QUESTIONING DECEMBER 30 (REF A).

DURING DISCUSSION WITH COUNTRY DIRECTOR O'DONOHUE JANUARY 21
KIM SAID THAT HE WAS DISTURBED AT INDICTMENT OF HIS SECRETARY,
BUT HE APPEARED UNAWARE THAT HIS OWN INDICTMENT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED
SAME DAY.

3. AS YET THERE IS NO CLEAR CONSENSUS AS TO WHY GOVERNMENT HAS
CHOSEN TO PUT PRESSURE ON KIM AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, ROKG MOVE
MAY BE RELATED TO RECENT INCREASE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON PART
OF KIM YONG-SAM, MOST NOTABLY JANUARY 17 NEW YEAR'S PRESS CONFER-
ENCE (REF B) WHICH WAS RELATIVELY HARD HITTING IN COMPARISON WITH
KIM'S COOPERATIVE ACTIONS DURING 1975 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.

4. KIM'S OFFICE HAS TOLD US THAT AT THIS STAGE PARTY LEADER
DOES NOT CONSIDER INDICTMENT AS RESTRICTING HIS ACTIVITIES;
HE INTENDS TO VISIT JAPAN AS SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 6 6.
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Message Attributes

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